

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02 SCA-01 SY-05 /063 W

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O R 232200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6043

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5946

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: AP BUREAU CHIEF EXPULSION

REFS: LIMA 5914 AND 5920

1. IN ABSENCE FONMIN DE LA FLOR I CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA TODAY, JULY 23, TO EXPRESS USG SURPRISE AND CONCERN OVER SUDDEN EXPULSION LAST NIGHT OF AP REPRESENTATIVE EDITH LEDERER. MORE SPECIFICALLY I SAID OUR CONCERN WAS WHETHER LEDERER'S RIGHTS HAD NOT BEEN VIOLATED BY THIS GOP ACTION AND ASKED WHAT THE REASONS AND LEGAL BASIS FOR HER EXPULSION WERE.

2. SECGERBERAK REFERRED TO WIRE SERVICE STORY FILED BY LEDERER ASSOCIATING PERUVIAN AIR FORCE FIRE POWER DISPLAY ON SUNDAY JULY 19 WITH ALLEGED TENSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE GREAT SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE AND THE IMPORTANT EFFORTS ON THE PART OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO AVOID TENSION, AN ARMAMENTS RACE, AND ANY POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT THIS LINE OF REPORTING WAS HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE AND FORBIDDEN BY PERU' S PRESS LAW. HE ADDED THAT PRESS LAW PROVIDES FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST ANY PERSON CONTRIBUTING TO BAD RELATIONS OR INCREASING TENSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND ITS  
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NEIGHBORS. RATHER THAN JAIL OR OTHER SANCTION, LEDERER

WAS EXPELLED.

3. I POINTED OUT TO GARCIA BEDOYA THAT ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT APPEARING IN WASHINGTON PRESS YESTERDAY AND DAY BEFORE WITH AP ATTRIBUTION DID NOT MAKE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN FIRE POWER DISPLAY AND PERU'S RELATIONS WITH CHILE. I ALSO SAID THAT LEDERER, HAVING BEEN REASSIGNED TO A NEW POST IN THE CARIBBEAN, WAS PLANNING TO DEPART PERU WITHIN A WEEK OR SO IN ANY CASE. HE SAID THAT HAD GOP KNOWN THIS, IT MIGHT HAVE APPROACHED THE PROBLEM A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY, BUT HE COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE EXPULSION NOTICE APPLIED TO LEDERER ONLY AND NOT TO AP WHICH IS FREE TO SEND A REPLACEMENT ANY TIME.

4. DURING ATTENDANCE THIS MORNING OF PERU'S ANNUAL AIR FORCE DAY CELEBRATION, I RAISED SAME ISSUE WITH AIR MINISTER GILARDI WHO IMMEDIATELY CALLED FOR AND WAS GIVEN HIS COPY OF STORY FILED BY LEDERER. GILARDI POINTED TO LAST PARAGRAPH OR TWO OF STORY WHICH RELATED AIR SHOW TO A PERUVIAN DESIRE TO SHOW CHILE THAT PERU WAS PREPARED AND TO ALLEGATIONS OF RISING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GILARDI SAID THESE ALLEGATIONS WERE FALSE, SOMETHING THAT PERU AND CHILE WERE GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID OR DISPEL, ADDING THAT IN THIS CONTEXT THIS TYPE OF "TENDENTIOUS" REPORTING IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PERU.

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## Message Attributes

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